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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, January 29, 1987 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended January 24 totaled an estimated 16.5 billion ton-miles, 7.8 percent below the corresponding week of 1986, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first four weeks of 1987 was an estimated 61.9 billion ton-miles, down 5.7 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended January 24 totaled 364,994, down 7.4 percent from the corresponding week of last year, and 5.6 percent below the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were down 12.3 percent in the East and 1.5 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 15 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased, with coal showing a decline of 14,720 cars (12.3 percent). Fourteen of the 21 commodity groups decreased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended January 17 totaled 92,789 trailers and/or containers, 0.5 percent above last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first three weeks of the year was 249,372 trailers and/or containers, up 3.2 percent from 1986.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 1/24/87:

	Loadings in Week ended January 24, 1987		Change from Corresponding Week 1986			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	23,924	D	2,876	10.7	D	2,450	9.3
Other farm products	4,619	I	334	7.8	D	814	15.0
Metallic ores	12,999	I	89	0.7	I	1,618	14.2
Coal	104,537	D	14,720	12.3	D	7,243	6.5
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	9,516	D	1,363	12.5	D	2,041	17.7
Nonmetallic minerals	8,360	D	697	7.7	I	23	0.3
Grain mill products	11,381	I	448	4.1	I	143	1.3
Food and kindred products	10,942	D	675	5.8	D	429	3.8
Primary forest products	9,508	D	2,329	19.7	D	1,471	13.4
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,128	I	501	6.6	I	212	2.7
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,936	D	885	6.4	D	286	2.2
Chemicals and allied products	24,863	I	459	1.9	D	1,299	5.0
Petroleum products	4,661	D	488	9.5	I	33	0.7
Stone, clay and glass products	8,274	D	1,193	12.6	D	787	8.7
Coke	3,923	D	855	17.9	D	70	1.8
Metals and products	7,631	D	1,226	13.8	D	430	5.3
Motor vehicles and equipment	21,165	D	2,495	10.5	I	19	0.1
Waste and scrap materials	8,091	D	944	10.4	D	499	5.8
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,907	D	2,871	49.7	I	27	0.9
All other carloads	66,545	I	2,794	4.4	D	5,829	8.1
LCL traffic	84	D	52	38.2	D	23	21.5
Total Cars Loaded	364,994	D	29,044	7.4	D	21,596	5.6
Corresponding week of 1986	394,038						

	1987	1986	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (4 weeks)	1,371,538	1,445,762	D 5.1
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
Week ended January 17	45.4	47.7	D 4.8
Week ended January 24	16.5	17.9	D 7.8
4 Weeks cumulative	61.9	65.6	D 5.7

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